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## In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Previously Presented) A bat comprising:
  - a hitting surface;
  - a handle element attached to the hitting surface; and
- a sleeve positioned within the hitting surface, wherein the hitting surface and the sleeve are comprised of composite materials;

wherein the hitting surface is made from a first set of fibers and a first resin and wherein the sleeve is made from a second set of fibers and a second resin, the second set of fibers and the second resin being different than the first set of fibers and first resin.

- 2. (Original) The bat of claim 1 wherein the hitting surface has a first stiffness and the sleeve positioned within the hitting surface has a second stiffness different than the first stiffness.
- 3. (Original) The bat of claim 1 wherein the hitting surface has a first stiffness and the sleeve positioned within the hitting surface has a second stiffness different than the first stiffness, wherein the second stiffness is approximately 3 times the stiffness of the first stiffness.
- 4. (Cancelled)
- 5. (Currently Amended) The bat of claim  $\underline{1}$  [[4]] wherein the first set of fibers includes a tubular sock.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The bat of claim  $\underline{1}$  [[4]] wherein the second fiber and resin is impregnated in the second set of fibers.
- 7. (Original) The bat of claim 6 wherein the second fiber and second resin is an E-glass fiber impregnated resin.

- (Currently Amended) The bat of claim 1 [[4]] wherein the second set of fibers and resin 8. is a sheet of material.
- (Withdrawn) A method of forming a bat comprising: 9. forming a tubular hitting surface; forming a sleeve from composite material; and fitting the sleeve within the tubular surface.
- (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of fitting the sleeve within the 10. tubular surface comprises force fitting the sleeve within the tubular hitting surface.
- (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of forming a sleeve from 11. composite material comprises laying up a plurality of layers of material.
- (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein laying up a plurality of layers of material 12. further comprises laying up a first layer of material and a second layer of material at different angles.
- (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein laying up a plurality of layers of material 13. further comprises laying up a first layer of material and a second layer of material at different angles, wherein the angles of laying up are varied to change the nodes of vibration within the bat.
- (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of forming a sleeve from 14. composite material comprises:

laying up a plurality of layers of material; and wrapping the plurality of layers about a mandrel.

(Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of forming a sleeve from 15. composite material comprises:

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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laying up a plurality of layers of material; wrapping the plurality of layers about a mandrel; and wrapping tape over the plurality of layers about the mandrel.

(Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of wrapping tape includes: 16. wrapping a first layer of tape to produce a release layer; and wrapping a second layer of tape to produce a strength layer.